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Effects of Smoking Deprivation on Group Problem Solving Processes.

Increasingly, smokers are encountering situations where they are not allowed to smoke because of restrictions that have been imposed. Previous research has shown that smoking deprivation has an effect on various psychomotor tasks with decrements in performance typically shown. The current study is concerned with determining whether smoking deprivation affects group performance, both in terms of accuracy and speed on group performance tasks and in terms of social interactions shown by members of the deprived groups in comparison to nondeprived groups.

Triads consisting of smokers who are allowed to smoke, nonsmokers, and smokers who are not permitted to smoke, will perform group problem solving tasks for several hours. Dependent variables will consist of speed and accuracy measures. Groups will also be observed and recordings of behavior obtained, in order to determine if social processes differ between groups.

Data have been collected for one year on this project.

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